

Proposed Amendments to the Claims for clarity:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A structured document management system for managing a structured document, comprising:

a decomposition part that decomposes an inputted structured document into plural partial structures in accordance with a setting and ~~generating~~ generates a hierarchical ~~relation~~ relationship between the partial structures as first structural information;

a structural information registration part that, for each of the partial structures:

_____ generates a hierarchical ~~relation~~ relationship between elements in the partial structure ~~for each of the partial structures decomposed by the decomposition part~~ as second structural information;

_____ ~~so that a depth first node order is assigned to~~ assigns each of the elements in the partial structure a depth first node order; and

_____ associates a maximum node order of node orders of elements ~~is associated with each element in the partial structure~~; and

_____ an information retaining part that retains the first structural information ~~generated by the decomposition part~~ and the second structural information ~~generated by the structural information registration part~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A structured document management method for managing a structured document, comprising:

decomposing an inputted structured document into plural partial structures in accordance with a setting ~~and~~;

_____ generating a hierarchical ~~relation~~ relationship between the partial structures as first structural information;

generating, ~~for each partial structure,~~ a hierarchical ~~relation~~relationship between elements in the partial structure ~~for each of the decomposed partial structures~~ as second structural information;

~~so that a depth first node order is assigned to~~assigning, for each partial structure, each of the elements in the partial structure a depth first node order; and

~~associating, for each partial structure,~~ a maximum node order of node orders ~~of elements of is associated with the~~each element in the partial structure; and

retaining the first structural information and the second structural information ~~and managing the structured document.~~

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The search device according to ~~claim 3~~claim 9, wherein, if the first element is the root of the first partial structure the structure search part does not determine an ancestor-descendant relationship between the first element and a linking element based on the second structural information~~perform determination using the second structural information when the element included in the ancestor partial structure is an element which is the root of the ancestor partial structure.~~

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The search method according to ~~claim 6~~claim 10, wherein, if the first element included in the ancestor partial structure is an element which is the root of the ancestor first partial structure, an ancestor-descendant relationship between the first element and a linking element based on the second structural information~~determination using the second structural information is not performed~~determined.

8. (Canceled)

9. (New) A search device for determining an ancestor-descendant relationship between a first element and a second element of a structured document, comprising:

an information retaining part that retains:

first structural information showing a hierarchical relationship between partial structures, the partial structures obtained by decomposing the structured document in accordance with a setting; and

second structural information showing, for each of the partial structures, a hierarchical relationship between elements in that partial structure, each ancestor partial structure containing at least one element that is also a root of a child partial structure; and

a structure search part that determines an ancestor-descendant relationship between the first elements and the second element of the structured document by:

determining whether the two elements are in a same partial structure;

if the two elements are in the same partial structure, determining the ancestor-descendant relationship between the two elements based on the second structural information;

if the two elements are not in the same partial structure, determining the ancestor-descendant relationship between a first partial structure containing the first element and a second partial structure containing the second element based on the first structural information;

determining if the first partial structure is an ancestor of the second partial structure based on the first structural information; and

if the first partial structure is an ancestor of the second partial structure, determining an ancestor-descendant relationship between the first element and a linking element based on the second structural information, the linking element contained within the first partial structure, the linking element located on a path from the first partial structure to

the second partial structure, and the linking element a root of a child partial structure of the ancestor partial structure.

10. (New) A search method for determining an ancestor-descendant relationship between a first element and a second element of a structured document, comprising:

retaining first structural information showing a hierarchical relationship between partial structures, the partial structures obtained by decomposing the structured document in accordance with a setting; and

retaining second structural information showing, for each of the partial structures, a hierarchical relationship between elements in that partial structure, each ancestor partial structure containing at least one element that is also a root of a child partial structure; and

determining an ancestor-descendant relationship between the first elements and the second element of the structured document by:

determining whether the two elements are in a same partial structure; if the two elements are in the same partial structure, determining the ancestor-descendant relationship between the two elements based on the second structural information;

if the two elements are not in the same partial structure, determining the ancestor-descendant relationship between a first partial structure containing the first element and a second partial structure containing the second element based on the first structural information;

determining if the first partial structure is an ancestor of the second partial structure based on the first structural information; and

if the first partial structure is an ancestor of the second partial structure, determining an ancestor-descendant relationship between the first element and a linking

element based on the first second information, the linking element contained within the first partial structure, the linking element located on a path from the first partial structure to the second partial structure, and the linking element a root of a child partial structure of the ancestor partial structure.